

Achievement (Closing Session)

VIDEO	AUDIO
Stock Footage of Kids out of School	When children are not in school they fall behind in learning, but what else happens to them? Evidence suggests that consistent non-attendance leads to academic failure, dropping out, and in many cases, delinquency and later adult crime. Poor attendance and chronic absenteeism cannot only predict school dropout, they also are predictors of other negative consequences.
What are the Costs of Truancy graphic Truancy programs stock footage	For most gender and ethnic categories, one high school dropout can be expected to cost the public in excess of \$200,000 dollars more over the course of his or her life than if he or she had earned a high school degree. The monetary benefits of education are enormous. But, the effect of reduced criminal behavior on the quality of life both of the high school graduates, and on the general population cannot be quantified. If truancy initiatives are properly implemented the cost savings can be dramatic. The underlying issue is this; School failure is so costly that there need only be minor success with truancy reduction programs in order to achieve a positive payback.
Kid shots in school	Providing children with a safe and nurturing learning environment, investing in their health and education, and promoting secure families are all critical to children's sound development and ability to learn. If accomplished, this in turn encourages the child to become an individual with the abilities to achieve satisfying relationships with others, develops growth of human dignity and respect for the diversity of people, and enhances the development of each child's understanding of society, his or her place within it and the responsibilities that come along with it.
Graphic (Thank You)	On behalf of OJJDP and The Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, Thank you for

	participating in this important event
alternate	Please welcome the Administrator of OJJDP J. Robert Flores